

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /086 W

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O 281215Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2803

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST -- THE
FRENCH PROBLEM

REFS: (A) STATE 259267; (B) BONN 17958

BEGIN SUMMARY: DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH HAS
INDICATED THAT THE GERMAN POSITION ON THE FRENCH DATA
PROBLEM IS UNDER REVIEW BUT WILL PROBABLY REMAIN AS IT
IS. ROTH IS AWAITING FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S
REACTION TO A POSITION PAPER WHICH HE, ROTH, HOPES TO
DISCUSS NEXT WEEK PERSONALLY IN WASHINGTON. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN A FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR ROTH ON
OCTOBER 27, HE INDICATED THAT HE AND OTHERS HAD CARE-
FULLY STUDIED THE PAPERS LEFT BY AMBASSADOR STOESSEL
WITH STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF ON OCTOBER 22 (REFTELS).
SINCE HE DID NOT RETURN FROM VIENNA UNTIL THE EVENING OF
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THE 25TH, HE DIRECTED HIS STAFF YESTERDAY TO PREPARE A

POSITION PAPER IN RESPONSE TO THE U.S. DEMARCHE.

2. ROTH WAS RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT THE PAPER WHICH IS NOW BEFORE GENSCHER. HE REITERATED THE GERMAN INTEREST IN FINDING A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE FRENCH DATA PROBLEM, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HE DOUBTED THE FRG WOULD BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH HAD THUS FAR BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE NATO POSITION. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE FRG WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO EXCLUDE THE USE OF FRENCH DATA PERMANENTLY FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FRENCH WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT THAT THEIR FORCE TOTALS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATION OF THE COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING, ALTHOUGH THE ONLY FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING FORCE LEVELS IN THE FRG WAS THAT CONTAINED IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. ROTH SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE ABOVE POSITION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE CLEAR TO THE FRENCH, AND THAT HE BELIEVED THIS WOULD BE GENSCHER'S VIEW AS WELL. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT OUR EARLIER EXPERIENCE WITH THE FRENCH SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO LEAVE SOME WRITTEN DOCUMENT, EVEN A SHORT ONE OR JUST TALKING POINTS, WITH THE FRENCH SO THAT LATER THEY COULD NOT CLAIM THEY HAD MISUNDERSTOOD THE NATO POSITION.

4. ROTH CONTINUED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REMOVE THIS IRRITANT TO FRENCH-NATO AND FRENCH-GERMAN RELATIONS. WHILE THE GERMANS WERE INTERESTED IN MOVING THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD IN VIENNA, HE THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CHOOSE RATHER TO DELAY THAN TO SACRIFICE THE BASIC NATO POSITION. IF THE PROBLEM WERE NOT SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, ROTH SAID THAT EITHER THE BASIC NATO

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18165

POSITION WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED -- SOMETHING WHICH THE FRG DID NOT CONTEMPLATE DOING -- OR ELSE THE PROBLEM WOULD LEAD TO A MAJOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE FRG, WHICH ALSO WOULD BEST BE AVOIDED.

5. ROTH PROFESSED TO HAVE SOME INFORMATION WHICH INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH TOO WERE INTERESTED IN PLAYING DOWN THE CONFRONTATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE DATA PROBLEM. HOWEVER, HE WOULD NOT ELABORATE. (COMMENT: WE SUGGEST WASHINGTON TRY TO DRAW ROTH OUT ON THE NATURE OF HIS INFORMATION).

6. ASSUMING THAT GENSCHER DECIDES ON A GERMAN POSITION SOON, ROTH SAID HE WOULD HOPE TO PROVIDE AMBASSADOR VON STADEN WITH AN OUTLINE OF THE GERMAN POSITION LATER THIS WEEK AND ASK HIM TO CONVEY IT TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT TO HELP THEM PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WITH ROTH. ROTH INDICATED HE HOPED TO BE IN WASHINGTON ON NOVEMBER 3 AND 4 AND THAT HE WOULD BE SPEAKING WITH HIS MINISTER'S AUTHORIZATION. HE ALSO
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SAID IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO VISIT LONDON FOR A FEW HOURS ON NOVEMBER 2 TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE BRITISH, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THE GERMANS DID NOT WISH TO SUGGEST A TRILATERAL AGAIN ON THIS ISSUE.

7. ROTH ALSO EXPRESSED A HOPE FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR SLOSS WHICH WOULD NOT BE RELATED TO THE FRENCH PROBLEM.

8. COMMENT: ASSUMING THAT THE GERMAN POSITION IS DECIDED ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED BY ROTH, IT WILL

PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT TO MOVE THE FRG AWAY FROM IT. THE GERMANS SEE IN THE FRENCH DATA PROBLEM AN ISSUE WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE UNRAVELING OF THE COLLECTIVITY PRINCIPLE, WHICH IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE FRG. THE GERMANS BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEM WITH THE FRENCH MUST BE RESOLVED NOW WITHOUT ANY CHANCE FOR IT TO BE RE-OPENED LATER, OR ELSE THE SORE WILL CONTINUE TO FESTER, POSSIBLY POISONING THE ENTIRE MBFR NEGOTIATION. STOESSEL

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